

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, AR

SUBJECT: EXPANDING MILITARY ROLE IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE FIGHT

REF: A) BA-6713, B) BA-7409

1. MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION CARRYING OUT STEPPED-UP ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS ACROSS ARGENTINA FOR PAST FEW WEEKS. BASES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY ARE EARLY OCT DECREES ESTABLISHING NATIONAL DEFENSE AND INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCILS (SEE REF A). ALL THREE BRANCHES OF MILITARY HAVE NOW TAKEN PART IN OPERATIONS AGAINST TERRORISTS.

2. NEWS MEDIA HAVE REPORTED SEVERAL LARGE SCALE JOINT MILITARY-POLICE OPERATIONS IN PAST FEW WEEKS. MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES HAVE BEEN JOINTLY EMPLOYED IN LARGE SEARCHES OF SUSPECTED URBAN AND RURAL AREAS AND SOLDIERS NOW MAN MANY ROAD CHECKPOINTS ACROSS ARGENTINA. REPORTS INDICATE HUNDREDS OF SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND SEVERAL KILLED SINCE NOV 1. REPORTED SWEEP SUCCESSESS ARE DOUBTLESS RESULT OF NOW COMBINED INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY.

3. AIR FORCE UNITS BECAME INVOLVED (REF B) EARLY NOV
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IN TUCUMAN BY CARRYING OUT BOMBING AND STRAFING RAIDS.

ARMY AND NAVY TROOPS RECENTLY CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE SWEEPS WITH POLICE IN MAR DEL PLATA. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID (NOV 19) AT ARGENTINE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, MOREOVER, THAT THE MARINES WERE READY TO FIGHT SUBVERSION IN AREAS WHERE THE ARMY WAS NOT OPERATING. REPORTEDLY, REAL ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS ARE BEING USED AS TRAINING MANEUVERS SOME RECRUITS. LARGE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE KEPT IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE TRAINING AND IN OPERATIONS OVER THE USUALLY LONG SUMMER LEAVE PERIOD.

4. LAST NIGHT (NOV 20) CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PASSED THE NEW DEFENSE LAW. THE HOUSE VERSION APPARENTLY DOES NOT CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL, BY SOME CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT IF THE LAW AND ANTI-SUBVERSIVE PROGRAM ARE TO BE POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE. ORIGINALLY, THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCILS WERE PROPOSED AS COMPLIMENTARY ORGANS (REFTEL A). THE BILL GOES NEXT BEFORE THE SENATE FOR FINAL RATIFICATION AND POSSIBLE CHANGES.

5. COMMENT: THUS, WHILE JOINT EFFORTS AND NEWLY INSTITUTED COORDINATION AMONG VARIOUS FORCES HAVE PRODUCED SOME SUCCESSES, EMASCULATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL (IF SUCH NEW LAW TURNS OUT TO BE) MIGHT IMPEDE CONTINUED COOPERATION, AND, THUS, SUCCESSES. FURTHER, EVEN IF COORDINATION AMONG VARIOUS SERVICES WERE OF HIGHEST ORDER AND GOVT HAD GIVEN ARMED FORCES ABSOLUTELY FREE HAND TO DEAL WITH TERRORISTS, MILITARY WOULD STILL BE WORKING UNDER MAJOR DISADVANTAGE. NO SECURITY FORCE IN WORLD HAS HAD MUCH LUCK IN STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS WHEN GOVT IT WAS DEFENDING WAS CORRUPT AND DISCREDITED, AS IN MRS. PERON'S. IN STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS, ARMED FORCES ARE PUT IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF DEFENDING AN ENTITY THEY THEMSELVES ABHOR. AS ONE OFFICER RECENTLY PUT IT TO EMBOFF, "THIS GOVT IS A CARICATURE OF ALL THE ILLS TERRORISTS CLAIM CHARACTERIZE 'CAPITALIST' GOVERNMENTS. WHEN WE LOOK AT THE RAMPANT CORRUPTION, WE SOMETIMES ASK OURSELVES WHY WE ARE DEFENDING THIS GOVT IN THE FIRST PLACE?"
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